

Recent observations of some bird species previously considered uncommon or rare in Ethiopia

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Des données ornithologiques récentes pour l'Éthiopie sont présentées. Elles ont été obtenues de sources non publiées et se rapportent à des espèces considérées antérieurement comme peu communes ou rares. Les données sont examinées en tenant compte de publications régionales antérieures et des conclusions préliminaires concernant la distribution et le statut actuel de ces espèces sont présentées.

Recent ornithological visits to Ethiopia are providing additional information on distribution, period of occurrence and population which clarify and amplify earlier regional publications. Our observations from recent visits presented some initial uncertainties due in part to available summary information being located in various publications not usually carried in the field, some of which do not distinguish between present-day Ethiopia and Eritrea. We present recent previously unpublished data obtained by ourselves and other ornithologists travelling independently, principally to the West Highlands, Rift Valley and South-east Highlands of modern Ethiopia. The data relate to Palearctic and intra-African migrants, and resident (including endemic) bird species previously considered uncommon or rare. The observations include range extensions for several residents and consolidation of migration and overwintering periods; four Palearctic migrants apparently new to Ethiopia (Subalpine *Sylvia cantillans*, Rüppell's *S. rueppelli* and Spectacled Warblers *S. conspicillata*, and Cretzschmar's Bunting *Emberiza caesia*) are not included, but will be described separately (see also Recent Reports, this issue).

The data are prefaced by brief extracts from earlier regional publications in order to indicate our increasing knowledge of, eg status and distribution. Brief reference is also made to some other (largely unconfirmed) recent reports in *Bull. ABC*, to comments in *The Birds of Africa* Vols 1–5¹⁸, *The Birds of the Western Palearctic* (BWP)⁷, *The Handbook of the Birds of the World* Vols 1–5¹⁰ and *Important Bird Areas of Ethiopia*¹⁷ where these clarify our own observations. In the species accounts, the authors' observations are usually not identified but those of other contributors are acknowledged, comments on distribution in adjacent countries are also presented where this clarifies our data.

Unusually heavy rains in autumn 1996–early 1997 are considered likely to have benefited the number

and extent of some water-dependent species at that time. Extensive fires in Awash National Park in 1996 are considered likely to have subsequently modified the avifauna in that region.

Nomenclature and sequence principally follow *The Birds of Africa*¹⁸ and Zimmerman *et al.*¹⁹ for most other species (taxonomic deviations from the first-named are indicated in the introductory comments to the particular species accounts). Following many differences in spelling of place names and localities encountered in the literature and elsewhere, we have opted to use *A Traveller's Reference Map (No 758) of Ethiopia* 1:2,000,000 (first edition) as it appears to be widely available and inexpensive. Hence, we have not included a general locality map in these notes.

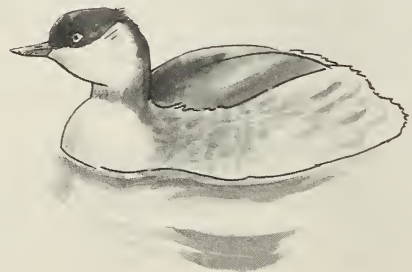
The original intention in preparing our notes was to clarify recent occurrence, status etc for the benefit of others intending to travel to the more accessible parts of Ethiopia. The present more detailed treatment is intended to be of wider interest.

Species accounts

Podiceps nigricollis Black-necked Grebe

Considered uncommon, a possible Palearctic migrant¹ and resident, with breeding records¹⁹. *P. n. gurneyi* is a local, erratic breeder in Kenya²⁰.

1988: one at Lake Shalla on 13 November. 1996: two



Black-necked Grebe *Podiceps nigricollis*
by Mark Andrews

at Lake Ziway on 30 January with 30 at Lake Abijatta on 16 October; 25 in Abijatta-Shalla NP on 21 October (DM) with several there on 27 November (JT), two at Debre Zeit on 20 November with one there on 30 November and 10 at Lake Abijatta on 24 November. 1997: recorded at Lake Chelekleka (just north of Debre Zeit) on 16 March and at Lake Abijatta on 19 March.

***Butorides striatus* Green Heron**

B. s. atricapillus frequent to common, although uncommon at alkaline lakes¹⁹. Fairly common resident in Kenya, scarce at Lake Turkana due to falling water levels²¹.

Our observations indicate that it is probably more frequent at Rift Valley lakes and Awash NP (perhaps due to increased observer coverage) as affected by more unusual rainfall patterns.

***Egretta gularis* Western Reef Heron**

Common on Red Sea coast of Eritrea, but rare at alkaline lakes¹⁹; and considered a vagrant (= fewer than 5 records)¹. Uncommon non-breeding visitor to Kenya²¹.

1988: one at Blue Nile rapids, Lake Tana on 8 November. 1994: one at Blue Nile rapids, Lake Tana on 24 January. 1996: one grey individual at Lake Basaka on 20 November.

Recent observations indicate current status as uncommon at inland lakes (see also *Bull. ABC* 2: 61).

***Ciconia nigra* Black Stork**

Uncommon to frequent, rare in highland grasslands¹⁹; Palearctic migrant mid-October–late January, overwintering¹. Regular Palearctic migrant in small numbers October–April in Kenya²¹; uncommon migrant October–April in Sudan¹².

1988: singles near Bahar Dar (Lake Tana) on 8 November, near Awash NP headquarters on 11 November and between Goba and Shashemene on 18 November. 1995: recorded at Bokol Mayo on 26 December and Melka Guba on 27 December. 1996: two near Shashemene on 3 February and between Shashemene and Goba on 20 October; singles between Goba and Wendo Genet on 3 November (DM), northern Awash NP on 25 November (JT) and Shashemene on 26 November with two near Dinsho on 29 November. 1998: singles at Debre Zeit on 16 March and in Bale Mts on 23 March.

Recent observations indicate migration period mid-October–late March; overwintering.

***Ciconia episcopus* Woolly-necked Stork**

C. e. microscelis uncommon resident¹⁹. Fairly common in coastal Kenya²⁰.

1995: recorded in Jema Valley on 17 December. 1996: recorded north of Arba Minch on 2 January; singles at Koka Dam on 24 October and at Awasa on 29 November (JT).

***Platalea leucorodia* Eurasian Spoonbill**

P. l. leucorodia (synonymous with *P. l. archeri*) common on Red Sea coast but rare (?) at alkaline lakes¹⁹; Palearctic migrant (no dates)¹; uncommon to locally common in

Ethiopia¹⁰. Scarce migrant in Kenya, thought to represent nominate Palearctic race, but *archeri* from the Red Sea coast also possible²⁰; *leucorodia* uncommon in east Sudan¹².

1988: one at Lake Koka on 12 November.

***Tadorna ferruginea* Ruddy Shelduck**

Uncommon to rare on tarns and marshes to 3,700 m¹⁹; Palearctic migrant mid-August–early February¹; breeds Sanetti Plateau in Bale Mts¹⁸.

1995: two on the Sanetti Plateau on 23 December. 1996: two pairs above Goba at c4,000 m on 21 October; five in Bale NP on 30 October (DM) with three on Sanetti Plateau on 27 November. 1997: pair above Goba on 24 March and 17 November. 1998: 1–2 pairs on Sanetti Plateau on 23 March.

***Anas sparsa* African Black Duck**

A. s. leucostigma frequent to common, but uncommon on larger freshwater lakes rivers; usually on forested streams¹⁹. Uncommon and local on mountain streams in Kenya²⁰.

1988: three on Sululta Plains on 6 November, one at Bahar Dar on 7 November and two just west of Goba on 15 November. 1994: singles on Sanetti Plateau on 2 February and just west of Goba on 4 February. 1996: pair on Wabe Shabele river on 3 February, pair at Gefarsa Reservoir 20 km north-west of Addis Ababa on 12 October with two there on 14 October (DM) and pair on 23 November (JT); 10 in Bale NP on 30 October with six there next day and 10 between Goba and Wendo Genet on 3 November (DM); three by Akaki bridges on 20 November. 1997: one on a highland stream, without bankside vegetation, between Dodola and Adaba at c3,000 m on 25 March, appearing to have a high sediment load following recent intense rain, but probably with little domestic effluent; 3–5 at two locations on stream (apparently polluted by domestic effluent but with bankside vegetation) near the Ghion Hotel in central Addis Ababa on 30 March; singles on roadside stream near Dinsho on 16 and 18 November. 1998: one on Wabe Shebele river between Shashemene and Dinsho on 22 March with a pair there on 24 March.

Indicates a wider range of fluvial habitat (perhaps due to increased observer coverage) although apparently mainly above c1,800 m.

***Aythya nyroca* Ferruginous Duck**

Uncommon¹⁹; Palearctic migrant early October–late April, overwintering uncertain¹. Scarce Palearctic migrant (occasional small influxes) November–March in Kenya²⁰; rare migrant October–April in Sudan¹².

1988: one at Lake Chelekleka on 9 November. 1994: one at Lake Ziway on 24 January. 1996: two at Lake Chelekleka on 20 November. 1998: male at Lake Chelekleka on 15 March.

Recent observations suggest overwintering.

***Oxyura maccoa* Maccoa Duck**

Common to locally abundant, but uncommon at larger freshwater lakes/rivers¹⁹. Rather uncommon and local

resident in Kenya²⁰.

1988: one at Lake Chelekleka on 9 November. 1994: 15 at Lake Abijatta on 30 January and two at Lake Chelekleka on 26 January. 1996: two at Lake Hora (Debre Zeit) on 30 January; two males at Lake Chelekleka on 20 November. 1998: pair at Lake Chelekleka on 15 March and male at Debre Zeit the same day.

Pernis apivorus Honey Buzzard

Rare (no recent records)¹⁹; Palearctic migrant early October–early November, overwintering uncertain¹. Uncommon Palearctic migrant October–April in Kenya, mainly east of the Rift Valley²⁰; uncommon migrant October–November and April–May in Sudan¹².

1996: 2–3 between Ziway and Mojo on 30 November (JT). 1997: one at Gefarsa Reservoir on 15 March, two between Addis Ababa and Mojo on 18 March, singles at Wendo Genet on 26 March and in Awash NP on 28 March.

Recent observations indicate current status as Palearctic migrant early September–late March (perhaps due to increased observer coverage), and possibly overwintering.

Pernis apivorus/ptilorhynchus honey buzzard sp.

1988: 1–2 flushed from large trees at Awasa on 14 November.

In view of the lack of specimens from Ethiopia, the possibility of Crested Honey Buzzard *P. ptilorhynchus* cannot be eliminated, especially as winter records now exist for Arabia and small numbers appear to migrate into East Africa through the Middle East^{5,15,10}.

Machærhamphus alcinus Bat Hawk

M. a. anderssoni rare, no confirmed breeding records¹⁹. Uncommon and very local resident, few Kenyan breeding records²⁰.

Some (perhaps all) recent records of Bat Hawk from Awash NP could refer to Grey Kestrel *F. ardosiaceus* which hunt bats at and even just after dark along the river by the park headquarters (SCM, see also *Bull. ABC* 3: 61 and 5: 72 for records of Bat Hawk from Wendo Genet and Lake Awasa).

Circaetus gallicus Short-toed Eagle

Uncommon¹⁹; Palearctic migrant mid-September–mid-April, overwintering¹. Vagrant in Kenya²⁰.

1994: two between Bahar Dar and Tissisat Falls on 25 January. 1995: singles between Negele and Yavello on 27 December and between Yavello and Jinka on 28 December. 1996: singles in Awash NP on 21 November and near Shashemene on 26 November with two in Rift Valley between Wendo Genet and Lake Ziway on 31 November.

Recent observations indicate regular migrant/overwinterer.

Circaetus (g.) pectoralis Black-breasted Snake Eagle

Uncommon to rare¹⁹. Uncommon, but widespread in Kenya²⁰.

1988: singles in Awash NP on 10 November and

north of Awasa on 14 November. 1994: singles at Lake Ziway on 29 January, Lake Langano on 31 January and near Wendo Genet on 5 February. 1996: two at Lake Abijatta on 16 October; one there on 21 October (DM); three in Awash NP on 23 October, singles there on 26 October and 24–26 November (JT); singles between Mega and Negele on 28 October and at Wadera on 29 October (DM). 1997: singles 15 km south-west of Ziway on 19 March, at Langano on 20 March (same?) and near Ziway on 27 March, with two in Awash NP on 29 March and one there on 22 November. 1998: three near Awasa on 20 March, two in Awash NP on 26 March and one there on 27 March.

Recent observations indicate regular presence in the Rift Valley.

Circaetus cinereus Brown Snake Eagle

Uncommon to rare¹⁹. Widespread and fairly common in Kenya, few breeding records²⁰.

1988: singles in Awash NP on 11 November and east of Shashemene on 18 November. 1994: one between Nazeret and Awash on 26 January. 1995: one at Sof Omar on 22 December. 1996: singles at Arba Minch on 2 January, Langano on 30 January (SB), in Awash NP on 18 and 19 October, between Arba Minch and Yavello on 26 October (DM), and between Nazeret and Awash on 23 November. 1998: one in Awash NP on 27 March.

Circaetus cinerascens Smaller Banded Snake Eagle

Uncommon to rare resident¹⁹. Breeding suspected January–February in north-east Africa¹⁰. Scarce and very local in riverine woodland in Kenya, no East African breeding record²⁰, locally common in south-east Sudan¹⁵.

1988: one at Awasa on 15 November. 1994: one at Lake Awasa on 1 February. 1996: one at Lake Awasa on 23 October (DM); two near Wendo Genet on 29 November (JT). 1997: singles on east side of Lake Awasa at dusk on 21 March, and above Wendo Genet quarry mid-morning on 26 March (same?).

Accipiter brevipes Levant Sparrowhawk

Range, habitat and numbers obscure¹⁹. Rare Palearctic migrant, November–December, in Kenya²⁰ and uncommon, late September–late April, in east Sudan, where probably overlooked¹².

1996: one near Langano on 18 October (RFC, MW).

Accipiter minullus African Little Sparrowhawk

Uncommon resident, with breeding records¹⁹. Nominate race local and uncommon in Kenya, with *tropicalis* in coastal lowlands²⁰.

1994: one at Debre Libanos on 23 January. 1995: recorded between Melka Guba and Negele on 27 December. 1996: singles above Wendo Genet on 23 October and Awash NP on 25 October; Awash NP on 17 October (DM) and College of Forestry, Wendo Genet on 26 November (JT).

Accipiter nisus European Sparrowhawk

Nominate race uncommon to rare¹⁹; Palearctic migrant in December, overwintering uncertain¹, although

subsequently reported to winter in west Ethiopia¹¹. Nominate is scarce migrant in Kenya, November–February, without recent records²⁰ and uncommon through Sudan in September–April¹².

1988: one north of Awasa on 15 November. 1995: recorded Jema Valley on 17 December. 1996: singles in Bale Mts on 3–4 February, Lake Awasa on 19 October and Goba on 22 October.

Recent observations indicate presence of migrants in mid-October–early February.

***Accipiter rufiventris* Rufous-chested Sparrowhawk**

A. r. perspicillaris uncommon to rare, mainly in highland areas¹⁰. Nominate is local and uncommon resident in Kenya⁹.

1988: two above Goba on 16 November, with one on 17 November. 1995: singles south of Goba on 22 December and on Sanetti Plateau on 23 December. 1996: singles above Goba on 28 November and near Dinsho on 29 November. 1997: singles above Goba on 24 March and 17 November; pair mating near Debre Libanos on 10 November. 1998: male at Debre Libanos on 16 March.

***Accipiter melanoleucus* Black Sparrowhawk**

Nominate uncommon in Ethiopia¹⁰ and widespread in Kenya⁹.

1978–9: seen occasionally near Wendo Genet (LS). 1988: singles at Hilton Hotel, Addis Ababa on 7 November and Awash NP on 11 November. 1995: singles between Sululta and Jema gorge on 17 December and at Genale river on 23 December. 1996: singles at Gefarsa reservoir on 27 January and Wendo Genet on 7–8 February and 24 October; Lake Awasa on 23 October (DM) and near Addis Ababa on 23 November (JT). 1997: singles above Goba on 24 March and Wendo Genet on 26 March.

***Buteo oreophilus* Mountain Buzzard**

Frequent to uncommon resident¹⁰. Fairly common resident in montane forest in Kenya⁹.

1988: three over Harena Forest on 17 November. 1996: at least two pairs above Goba on 4–5 February; two in Harena Forest on 2 November (DM) and at least three pairs in Bale Mts forest on 27–28 November. 1997: singles in Bale Mts on 23–24 March and at Wendo Genet on 26 March, and in Bale NP on 17 November (GB). 1998: two in Bale Mts on 23 March with singles there on 24 March and at Wendo Genet on 25 March.

***Buteo rufinus* Long-legged Buzzard**

Uncommon Palearctic migrant from late November–late March, some overwintering^{1,20}, and rare migrant, in October–April, in Kenya²⁰ and uncommon in November–March in Sudan¹².

1996: singles at Debre Zeit on 30 January and Lake Awasa on 2 February, and two between Dodola and Goffer on 29 November. 1997: one near Dinsho, at c4,000 m, on 25 March.

***Aquila pomarina* Lesser Spotted Eagle**

Palearctic migrant during September, but overwintering uncertain¹. Recorded late October–early April in Kenya²⁰

and considered uncommon in Sudan, in February–April¹².

1988: two near Debre Libanos on 6 November and near Wendo Genet on 19 November, and one near Goba on 19 November. 1994: one near Bahar Dar on 25 January. 1997: singles at Lake Chelekleka on 16 March, near Ziway on 20 March, near Awasa on 21 March and over Addis Ababa on 30 March; and at Lake Langano on 12 November and near Goba on 16 November. 1998: one near Langano on 19 March.

Recent observations indicate migration during September–late March (perhaps due to increased observer coverage), with overwintering possible.

***Aquila heliaca* Imperial Eagle**

Uncommon, with no recent records and status rather obscure¹⁰. Migrants recorded in March, but overwintering uncertain¹. Scarce in Kenya, principally in the Rift Valley, during November–March²⁰ and rare in Sudan in January–March¹².

1988: singles at Lake Langano and Lake Abijatta on 13 November. 1996: one on the Sululta Plains on 15 October (DM) and an adult at Lake Abijatta on 24 November. 1997: one in Bale Mts, at c 3700m, on 17 November. 1998: one near Dinsho on 24 March.

Recent observations of this declining species indicate migration during mid-October–late March (perhaps due to increased observer coverage), and possible overwintering.

***Aquila wahlbergi* Wahlberg's Eagle**

An intra-African migrant⁹ that breeds, including around Addis Ababa, in September–October¹⁸. A widespread, migratory species in Kenya, principally present in August–April²⁰ and uncommon in December–April in Sudan¹².

1995: recorded between Negele and Melka Guba on 27 December. 1996: singles over Jema Gorge, at Debre Libanos, on 19 November, at Dinsho on 29 November and at Wendo Genet on 30 November (SCM / D Forsman). 1997: one near Lake Langano on 13 November (GB).

Our records presumably refer to individuals wintering north and east of their breeding areas.

***Aquila verreauxii* Verreaux's Eagle**

Uncommon, breeds up to 4,100m¹⁹. Uncommon but widespread resident in Kenya²⁰.

1988: pair over Jema Gorge, near Debre Libanos, on 6 November and one over Harena Forest on 17 November. 1994: two at Wendo Genet on 5 February. 1995: singles at Goba on 22 December and Blue Nile gorge on 31 December. 1996: two at Debre Libanos on 14 October, singles over Jema Gorge on 19 November, above Goba on 28 November and near Dinsho on 29 November. 1997: one above Goba on 24 March. 1998: one above Goba on 23 March.

Hieraaetus spilogaster **African Hawk Eagle**

Uncommon to rare resident¹⁹, recorded near eastern borders with Somalia¹. Local and uncommon in Kenya²⁰.

1995: two between Filtu and Bokal Mayo on 25 December. 1996: two in Nechisar NP on 24 October (DM).

Hieraaetus pennatus **Booted Eagle**

Palaearctic migrant late October–mid-March, some overwintering¹. Uncommon, but regular and widespread, Palaearctic migrant, mainly late October–early April in Kenya²⁰.

1988: one Hilton Hotel, Addis Ababa on 5 November. 1994: singles near Debre Libanos on 23 January and Lake Chelekleka on 26 January. 1995: one at Mt Fantale on 20 December. 1996: singles at Debre Libanos on 28 January and Wendo Genet on 7 February, three at Debre Zeit on 13 October (RFC), three at Sululta Plain and Debre Libanos on 19 November, singles in Awash NP on 22 November, between Lake Langano and Awasa on 25 November and Shashemene on 26 November. 1997: singles at Debre Zeit on 16 March and Wendo Genet on 26 March with two (dark and intermediate phases) between Dinsho and Shashemane on 18 November.

Recent observations indicate regular migrant mid-October–late March, overwintering.

Hieraaetus (dubius) ayresii **Ayres' Hawk Eagle**

Uncommon to rare, range uncertain¹⁹. Scarce and local resident in Kenya²⁰.

1988: pair at Wendo Genet on 18 November. 1996: singles above Goba on 21 October, at Debre Zeit on 17 October (DM) and at Debre Libanos on 19 November when a strange barred *Buteo*-like eagle soared out over the cliffs showing characteristics of juvenile plumage; identified by D Forsman from notes taken at time of observation.

Stephanoaetus coronatus **Crowned Eagle**

Frequent in upland forest and lowland subtropical humid forest, rare elsewhere, no breeding record¹⁹. Uncommon and local resident in Kenya²⁰; known from Immatong Mts in Sudan¹².

1996: pair displaying on 7 February and in October. 1998: two adults and an immature in March.

All observations from the same area, in forest east of Awasa. Details of exact locality withheld at request of observers; local breeding presumed.

Falco ardosiaceus **Grey Kestrel**

Uncommon (?), habitat and numbers uncertain¹⁹. Uncommon resident in west Kenya²⁰.

1994: singles hunting bats at Awash NP on 27–28 January. 1996: singles in Awash NP on 1 February and 18 October (DM), hunting bats at Awash NP headquarters on 21 November and on a roadside pole north of Awasa on 25 November; perched in *Acacia* by Lake Awasa just south of Awasa on 29 November (JT). 1997: one in *Acacia* just south of Awasa on 15 March.

Falco concolor **Sooty Falcon**

Common to frequent in Red Sea waters (Dahlak Islands)¹⁹. Presumed Palaearctic migrant but no evidence (fewer than one individual per year). Regular passage migrant in small numbers in central, east and south-east Kenya, late October–early December and (sporadically) late February–early May²¹.

1997: two between Dinsho and Shashemene on 18 November (GB).

Recent observations indicate occasional autumn passage at least late October–mid-November (see also *Bull. ABC* 4: 50 for autumn record from Bale NP).

Falco cuvieri **African Hobby**

Uncommon to rare (mainly west Ethiopia?)¹⁹, with breeding records¹. Uncommon resident mainly in west Kenya²⁰; rare in Sudan¹².

1994: singles in Awash NP on 28 November and at Lake Abijatta on 30 January. 1996: one between Arba Minch and Yavello on 26 October (DM).

Falco peregrinus **Peregrine Falcon**

Nominate and race *minor* uncommon; range, status, numbers and habitat unclear¹⁹. Palaearctic migrant (no dates), overwintering uncertain¹. In Kenya, *minor* uncommon but widespread breeding resident. Palaearctic *calidus* present October–March²¹.

1988: singles at Gefarsa Reservoir on 5 January and Sanetti Plateau on 16–17 November considered to be *minor*. 1996: singles at Debre Zeit on 30 January (SB) and 13 October, and north-west of Dinsho on 22 October, Ghion Hotel, Addis Ababa on 14 October, and Awash NP on 19 October (DM) and 21 November, with two at Lake Langano on 23–24 November. 1997: 2–3, 3 km west of Debre Libanos on 17 March; one at Lake Langano on 13 November, three on Sanetti Plateau on 17 November, two between Dinsho and Shashemene on 18 November and two at Wendo Genet on 19 November (GB). 1998: three near Debre Libanos on 16 March.

Recent observations not allocated subspecifically considered to be *peregrinus*.

Falco (p.) pelegrinoides **Barbary Falcon**

Passage migrant/winter resident¹. Uncommon to rare migrant. October–March (?), in Sudan¹².

1988: singles in Awash Gorge on 10–11 November thought to be *pelegrinoides* (SCM).

Porphyrio alleni **Allen's Gallinule**

Uncommon to rare intra-African migrant, which breeds^{9,19}. Local and usually uncommon in Kenya²⁰.

1995: one at Lake Awasa on 29 December. 1997: five on east side of Lake Awasa, near Awasa, on 22 March.

Porphyrio porphyrio **Purple Swamphen**

Race *madagascariensis* is uncommon to rare resident; breeding records require confirmation¹⁹. Local and uncommon in Rift Valley in Kenya, declining recently due to habitat loss and introduction of *Myocastor*

*coypus*².

1996: juvenile at Lake Ziway on 26 November (JT).
1997: 25 on east side of Lake Abijatta on 19 March; one near the Awasa Fishing Cooperative on 15 November.

***Gallinula angulata* Lesser Moorhen**

Rare, no breeding record¹. Intra-African migrant on both permanent and temporary waters in Kenya²⁰.

1996: three near Lake Ziway bund on 23 November (SCM) with at least one there on 26 November (JT) and 30 November (SCM, JT).

***Bugeranus carunculatus* Wattled Crane**

Frequent to common in highland grasslands, streams and marshes, but uncommon in broad-leaved, tall grass savanna²¹, but currently seen only irregularly and in very small numbers at Tefki, Debre Zeit, Akaki and in Bale Mts (*Bull. ABC* 1: 29). Population estimated in 100s mid-1980s to mid-1990s²².

1988: pair at Lake Abijatta on 13 November and on Sanetti Plateau on 16–17 November. 1995: one on Sanetti Plateau on 1 June (ED). 1996: six recorded in October (RFC), three in Bale NP on 30 October (DM) with two pairs on Sanetti Plateau on 29 November. 1997: three in Bale NP on 17 November (GB). 1998: pair on Sanetti Plateau on 23 March.

See also *Bull. ABC* 1: 29 and 3: 61 for records from Bahar Dar and near Chagne.



Heuglin's Bustard *Neotis heuglinii* by Mark Andrews

***Neotis heuglinii* Heuglin's Bustard**

Uncommon to frequent¹⁰. Confined to the east side of Lake Turkana in Kenya²⁰.

1995: 2–3 at 3 km and 4 km west of Fejeje on 29 December.

***Microparra capensis* Lesser Jacana**

One specimen from Lake Zwai, on 20 June 1962¹⁹, and considered a vagrant (fewer than five records)⁹. Very local and uncommon in Kenya²⁰; rare in Sudan¹².

1996: one at Lake Ziway on 5 January and two there on 30 January. 1997: two near Ziway bund on 20 March; two on east side of Lake Awasa, near Awasa, on 21 March; singles near Ziway bund on 11 and 13 November. 1998: one at Lake Ziway on 17 March, and two there on 19 March.

Recent observations indicate current status as local but uncommon at some Rift Valley lakes.

***Burhinus oediconemus* Stone Curlew**

Nominate and *sabarae* uncommon to rare¹⁹; subsequently revealed to be a Palearctic migrant, late October–early March, overwintering¹. Nominate is scarce Palearctic migrant. October–March, mainly in north Kenya²⁰.

1996: two in Awash NP on 25 October; one at Lake Abijatta on 27 November (JT).

***Pluvialis (dominica) fulva* Lesser (Pacific) Golden Plover**

Rare at alkaline lakes; Palearctic migrant late April–mid-January, not overwintering, mainly in autumn^{1,19}. Almost annual Palearctic migrant in East African coastal lowlands, flock of 57 in December 1985 considered exceptional²⁰.

All records at Lake Abijatta. 1988: 19 on 13 November. 1996: 61 (all in winter plumage) on 16 October; six on 21 October (DM) and 15 on 24 November. 1997: 84 on 21 March (all, but one, in winter plumage) may represent the largest group recently recorded in north-east Africa at an inland alkaline wintering passage location; 81 on 12 November (all in winter plumage). 1998: 74 (all in winter plumage) on 18 March.

Recent records indicate annual Palearctic migrant mid-October–late March (perhaps due to increased observer coverage), possibly overwintering at Lake Abijatta.

***Calidris temminckii* Temminck's Stint**

Uncommon to rare¹⁹. Palearctic migrant early September–late December and early February–late May, not overwintering¹. Local but regular Palearctic migrant October–April, mostly in the Rift Valley, in Kenya²⁰.

1988: two at Filowha Springs, Awash NP on 10 November with singles at Lake Ziway on 12 November and Lake Langano on 13 November. 1994: four at Bahar Dar on 24 January and Lake Chelekleka on 26 January, three at Lake Koka on 29 January with four at Lake Ziway on 29 January and one there on 5 February, two at Lake Abijatta on 30 January and one at Dinsho on 3 February. 1996: singles at Lake Ziway bund on 30 January, Lake Abijatta on 31 January and Lake Awasa on 2 February, two at Gefarsa Reservoir on 18 November and singles at Lake Ziway on 23 and 30 November, with 2–3 there on 26 November (JT). 1997: two at Lake Chelekleka on 16 March, one at small seasonal lake, near Lake Koka on 18 March, 11 near Ziway bund on 20 March, one at Gefarsa Reservoir on 8 November, four at Lake Ziway on 11 November and five there on 13 November. 1998: three at Gerfarsa reservoir on 14 March, 20 at Lake Chelekleka on 15 March, 30 at Lake Ziway on 17 March and 40 there on 19 March, 100 at Lake Abijatta on 18 March and six at Lake Awasa on 20 March.

Recent observations indicate regular passage through Rift Valley, spring migration perhaps as early as late January, overwintering uncertain.

***Calidris alpina* Dunlin**

Uncommon¹⁹. Palearctic migrant late August–early March, overwintering, a few oversummering¹. Rare Palearctic

migrant in Kenya, presumed to represent the nominate race²⁰; common in Sudan¹².

1988: one at Lake Abijatta on 13 November (SCM).

Xenus cinereus Terek Sandpiper

Uncommon to rare at larger freshwater lakes/rivers and alkaline lakes¹⁹. Palearctic migrant mid August–early November and early April–late May, not overwintering¹. Palearctic migrant late August–April in Kenya, a few first-year birds regularly remain all year²⁰.

1988: one at Lake Abijatta on 13 November. 1997: 2–3 on east side of Lake Abijatta on 19 March.

Recent observations indicate autumn migration until mid-November and spring migration as early as mid-March, perhaps overwintering.

Larus ichthyaetus Great Black-headed Gull

Palearctic migrant mid-December–mid-March, overwintering¹, with 32–111 birds wintering in the mid-1970s¹⁰. Uncommon Palearctic migrant December–March in Kenya at a few locations, rare elsewhere²⁰.

1994: one, probable first-winter, at Bahar Dar on 24 January, 10 at Lake Ziway on 29 January and 15 there on 5 February; one at Lake Abijatta on 30 January. 1996: one at Awasa on 4 January; five at Lake Abijatta on 31 January, singles at Lake Awasa on 1–2 February and Abijatta NP on 21 October (DM). 1998: two adults at Lake Ziway on 17 March with adult and first-winter there on 19 March, 22 at Lake Abijatta on 18 March.

Recent observations indicate migration period mid-October–late March (perhaps due to increased observer coverage), overwintering.

Larus (argentatus) cachinnans Herring (Yellow-legged) Gull

Uncommon Red Sea coast of Eritrea¹⁹, but vagrant in Ethiopia⁹. Could reach East Africa²⁰.

1988: adult at Lake Ziway on 12 and 19 November had characteristics of nominate (SCM). 1996: adult at Lake Abijatta on 27 November had characteristics of nominate (SCM). 1997: at least one adult just south of Ziway bund on 18 and 20 March, at c100m showed relatively pale grey wings, with white trailing edges in flight, pale yellow legs and large yellow bill with gonydeal spot. Appeared larger than adjacent, very dark-winged Lesser Black-backed Gull *L. fuscus* resembling the nominate race; initially allocated as *L. heuglini* mainly on apparent size, but, due to the relatively pale grey wings, tentatively retained as *cachinnans* (race not allocated). One on east side of Lake Abijatta, near entrance track, on 19 March (darker grey wings than Ziway individual of 18 and 20 March, bill appeared less heavy, with gonydeal spot) was considered to be a winter-plumaged adult, but race not assigned.

Recent observations indicate migration period for *cachinnans* at least mid-November–late March (perhaps due to increased observer coverage), overwintering possible. Further observations required.

Larus (fuscus) heuglini Lesser Black-backed (Heuglin's) Gull

Frequent to common (the commonest gull inland)¹⁹. Palearctic migrant early September–late May, overwintering, a few oversummering¹. *L. heuglini* regular or semi-regular visitor to Kenya, November–March²¹; vagrant inland in Sudan¹²; recorded mid-November–mid-March in Somalia, birds regarded as *heuglini* presumed to be of the form *taiomyrensis*⁴.

1988: adult and probable immature at Lake Ziway on 12 and 19 November (SCM). 1994: adult at Lake Ziway on 5 February (SCM). 1996: near-adult at Lake Ziway on 25 November (SCM).

Recent observations indicate migration period for *heuglini* at least mid-November–early February (perhaps due to increased observer coverage), overwintering possible. Further study of *Larus* spp. is desirable.

Sterna hirundo Common Tern

Palearctic migrant late September and February–mid-May, not overwintering¹. Common to abundant Palearctic migrant along the east Kenya coast, scattered records from some Rift Valley lakes, nominate race and *tibetana* appear to be represented²⁰.

1997: one at Lake Ziway on 11 and 13 November. 1998: one at Lake Ziway on 17 March with four there on 19 March.

Recent observations indicate autumn migration period late September–mid-November in the Rift Valley.

Chlidonias hybridus Whiskered Tern

Frequent to uncommon, although uncommon to rare on Red Sea coast; no breeding record¹⁹. Palearctic migrant early October–early November and early January–late May, not overwintering¹. Race *delalandii* is a local resident, breeding opportunistically in Kenya²¹.

1995: recorded at Lake Basaka on 20 December. 1996: recorded at Lake Langan on 3 January, eight at Debre Zeit on 13 October; 50 in Abijatta NP on 21 October, with 20 at Lake Awasa on 22 October, increasing to 50 next day (DM); two at Gerfasa Reservoir on 18 November, two at Lake Cheleleka on 23 November and eight at Lake Ziway on 30 November. 1997: two at Lake Abijatta on 12 November and Lake Ziway next day (GB).

Recent observations indicate migrants present during early October–late May, possibly overwintering; occurrence in the Rift Valley extended into West Highlands.

Chlidonias niger Black Tern

Uncommon at inland waters¹⁹. Palearctic migrant early May–mid-June¹. Rare migrant in Kenya²⁰.

1994: one at Lake Ziway on 29 January (bill slightly longer than *C. leucopterus*, darker above especially on rump, blackish shoulder patches forming noticeable patch at sides of breast) (SCM).

Turtur abyssinicus Black-billed Wood Dove

Common to abundant resident, but no breeding record¹⁹.

1994: singles near Awash NP headquarters on 28 January and near Arsi Negele on 31 January. 1997: one near Ziway on 27 March. 1998: one at Lake Awasa on 20 March.

Indicates a possible eastward range extension (perhaps due to increased observer coverage).

Tyto alba **Barn Owl**

Race *affinis* uncommon, unaccountably rare in many areas¹⁸. Two records in north-east, on the Somali border¹. Widely but sparingly distributed in Kenya²¹; uncommon in Sudan¹².

1994: pair roosting in hotel garden at Awasa on 31 January.

Otus scops **Common Scops Owl**

Nominate race uncommon¹⁷. Palearctic migrant mid-October–late March, overwintering¹. Scarce Palearctic migrant November–March in Kenya, most records involve nominate or *pulchellus*, pale birds referable to *turanicus*²¹.

1996: singles at Awasa on 1–2 February.

Asio (otus) abyssinicus **(African) Long-eared Owl**

Uncommon to rare resident, breeding possible¹⁹.

1988: two at dusk at Dinsho on 16 November. 1996: two between Kofele and Dodola on 2 January; singles between Wendo Genet and Goba on 3 February and 3 November (DM), and at Goffler on 26 November (nest nearby). 1997: two in *Eucalyptus* between Kofele and Dodola on 23 March.

Caprimulgus nubicus **Nubian Nightjar**

Race *tamaricus* common in north-east (breeding possible) and *torridus* common (?) in south-east and Rift Valley (no breeding record)¹⁸. Widespread at 600–1,250 m north and east of the Kenyan highlands²⁰.

1988: female almost captured by hand in Awash NP on 11 November, identified by tail feather details (SCM).

Caprimulgus stellatus **Star-spotted Nightjar**

Nominate and race *simplex* uncommon, apparently in deserts, but very little known¹⁹; *simplex* locally common, mainly in north Kenya, some records may refer to nominate²⁰.

1994: one seen well on ground in Awash NP on 28 January. 1995: two at Fejeje on 29–30 December. 1996: singles in Nechisar NP on 1 January and 24 October (DM). 1997: several calling and one seen in Awash NP on 28–29 March.

Prodotiscus zambesiae **Green-backed Honeybird**

Race *ellenbeckii* is uncommon resident⁹ and fairly common in woodland in Kenya²⁰.

1988: two at Wendo Genet on 19 November.

Prodotiscus regulus **Wahlberg's Honeybird**

Uncommon, no breeding record¹⁹. Local and uncommon, mainly in south Kenya²⁰; uncommon in Sudan¹².

1988: one at Bahar Dar on 8 November. 1996: two at Wendo Genet on 4 January; singles in Harena Forest on 2 November and Wendo Genet on 4 November (DM).

Jynx torquilla **Northern Wryneck**

Uncommon¹⁸. Palearctic migrant early September–mid-December and mid-January–early April, overwintering¹. Scarce Palearctic migrant in Kenya, only 14 records 1969–1992²⁰.

1994: singles at Lake Langano on 30 January and Awasa on 1 February. 1996: singles at Ghion Hotel, Addis Ababa on 11 February and 14–15 October (DM), with two there on 18 November; one at Awasa on 29 November (JT).

Jynx ruficollis **Rufous-breasted Wryneck**

Race *aequatorialis* uncommon, breeding possible¹⁹. Nominate uncommon resident, presence erratic in many areas in Kenya²⁰.

1988: singles at Awasa on 14 November and near Lake Ziway on 19 November. 1994: one at Goba on 3 February. 1995: singles Jema escarpment on 17 December and between Addis Adaba and Dinsho on 21 December. 1996: four at Awasa on 2 February, two at Ziway on 15 October, singles at Awasa Fishing Cooperative on 19 October, Sululta Plain on 15 October (DM), Ziway on 26 November and Awasa on 29–30 November (JT). 1997: singles at Debre Zeit on 16 March and 9 November, and Awasa on 15 November. 1998: one between Ziway and Langano on 19 March, three at Awasa on 21 March and one above Goba on 23 March.

Dendropicos namaquus **Bearded Woodpecker**

Uncommon to frequent resident, which breeds⁹. Nominate race widespread but uncommon in west and central Kenya, *schoensis* local and uncommon on north Kenya Mts²⁰.

1995: singles north of Awash on 18 December and Awash on 19 December. 1996: two at Lake Langano on 17 October, Abijatta NP on 21 October (DM) and Awash NP on 21–22 November, and singles at Lake Langano on 24 January and Awash NP on 25 November (JT). 1997: one near Langano on 19 March and two there on 12–14 November, and one in Awash NP on 20 November (GB). 1998: four at Lake Langano on 18 March.

Mirafra cantillans **Singing Bush-Lark**

Race *marginata* in north-east (breeding), *chadensis* in west (no breeding record) of uncertain abundance¹⁹. Birds in north should perhaps be examined more closely as to subspecies². In Kenya, *marginata* locally common, but records from Sudanese border may represent eastern population of *chadensis*²⁰.

1994: 11 between park entrance and caravans in Awash NP on 28–29 January. 1996: singles in Awash NP on 18 October (DM) and near Filowha Springs on 21 November, with three in same area on 22 November. 1997: several in grassy scrub in Awash NP on 28–29 March; relatively common there on 20–22 November. 1998: relatively common in Awash NP on 27–28 March.

Mirafra albicauda **White-tailed Bush-Lark**

First and second records for Ethiopia confirmed². Uncommon resident in Kenya²⁰; uncommon and local in east Sudan¹².

1996: one in Nechisar NP on 1 January, and two there on 25 October (DM).

See *Bull. ABC* 3: 62 for earlier records in Nechisar NP.

***Heteromirafr* *sidamoensis* Sidamo Lark**

Endemic; status indeterminate⁶. Resident⁹.

1995: one photographed 13 km SE of Negele on 24 December (RW). 1996: two between Mega and Negele on 28 October and at Sidamo Junction on 29 October (DM).

See *Bull. ABC* 2: 62, 3: 139 and 5: 72, 143 for additional records near Negele and on the Liben plains.

***Hirundo megaensis* White-tailed Swallow**

Endemic, frequent in the south, breeding possible¹⁹. Rare⁶.

1996: three on the Arero Track on 27 October (DM).

See also *Bull. ABC* 3: 62, 139 for records at Bodji-Kelefe and first discovery of a nest, near Yavello.

***Delichon urbica* Common House Martin**

Frequent to uncommon Palearctic migrant late July–early May, overwintering¹. Nominate race fairly common in Kenya, September–November and late March–April²⁰.

1996: one in Awash NP on 10 February and six at Goba on 21 October; two in Awash NP on 18 October and 10 there next day, four between Mega and Negele on 28 October and 20 at Sidamo Junction on 29 October (DM); two over Addis Ababa on 19–20 November and in Awash NP on 21 November. 1997: recorded near Langano on 20 March and Wendo Genet on 26 March; eight at Lake Chelekkeleka on 9 November and four in Bale NP on 16 November, with 16 there on 18 November (GB). 1998: three near Awasa on 20 March and 10 in Awash NP on 28 March.

***Motacilla citreola* Citrine Wagtail**

Schollaert¹⁴ in reporting the third Ethiopian record summarised previous African occurrences: 10–11 in Egypt, one in Djibouti and one in Morocco. Since then, an earlier record in Morocco has come to light and one has been recorded in South Africa.

1994: first-winter at Dinsho pool on 1–4 February.

The fourth record. Apparently a scarce Palearctic migrant mid-November–mid-March, probably overwintering.

***Anthus leucophrys* Plain-backed Pipit**

Races *omoensis* in west and south (breeding), *zenkeri* in south (no breeding record), *saphiroi* in south-east (breeding), but all of uncertain abundance; apparently does not occur below c900m¹⁹. Locally common resident, *zenkeri* west of Rift Valley, *goodsoni* in central Kenya²⁰.

1996: two between Debre Zeit and Ziway on 30 January and in same area on 16–17 October, two in Awash NP on 18 October and 10 there on 19 October, four between Mega and Negele on 28 October and 20 at Sidamo Junction on 29 October (DM); one near Lake Abijatta on 27 November (JT). 1997: one showing characteristics of *omoensis* 3 km west of Debre Libanos

on 17 March; similar-plumaged bird seen briefly on Ziway bund on 19 March; 50 at Wendo Genet on 26 March, singles at Langano on 20 March. Gefarsa Reservoir on 8 November and Lake Chelekkeleka on 9 November, several between Shashemene and Goba on 16 and 18 November. 1998: one at Lake Langano on 18 March.

Further observations useful to clarify relative distribution of this species and (larger) Long-billed Pipit *Anthus similis*.

***Luscinia luscinia* Thrush Nightingale**

Palaearctic migrant late August–late October and late March–late April, not overwintering, more common in autumn¹. Widespread, common to abundant east of Rift Valley in Kenya²⁰.

1996: recorded on six dates in October at various locations, with one at Lake Langano on 25 November. 1997: one at Lake Langano on 14 November and two in Awash NP on 21 November (GB).

Autumn migration appears to extend at least until late November in the Rift Valley (overwintering?).

***Luscinia svecica* Bluethroat**

Races *svecica* and *magna* rare to uncommon, abundance and distribution poorly known¹⁹. Palaearctic migrant late August–mid-May, overwintering¹.

1997: one just north of Ziway bund on 20 March.

***Irania gutturalis* Irania**

Occurs in Western Highlands, but distribution and abundance poorly known¹⁹. Palaearctic migrant in mid-August–mid-October and early March–mid-April, not overwintering, passage mainly in the spring¹. Locally common November–early April in Kenya²⁰.

1995: one between Key Afer and Turmi on 29 December. 1997: one in *Acacia* near main road between Nazeret and Awash on 27 March.

Records indicate autumn migration may extend to late December in the south (overwintering?).

***Cossypha natalensis* Red-capped Robin-Chat**

Race *intensa* frequent to uncommon, no breeding record, poorly known¹⁹ and common intra-African migrant in Kenya late April–November, *hylophona* breeds uncommonly in south²⁰.

1995: three in Nechisar NP on 31 December. 1996: one in the hotel grounds at Awasa on 19 October.

***Oenanthe pleschanka* / *O. p. cypriaca* Pied Wheatear / Cyprus Pied Wheatear**

Pied Wheatear common, *cypriaca* uncommon to frequent (?)¹⁹. Palaearctic migrant early September–early May, overwintering¹. Pied Wheatear occurs October–March in Kenya, often common²⁰; *pleschanka* uncommon October–March, *cypriaca* rare October–March (?) in north Sudan¹².

1996: single *cypriaca* at Langano on 17 October and between Wendo Genet and Goba on 22 October. 1997: one *cypriaca* near Debre Zeit on 16 March; three *cypriaca* near Gefarsa reservoir on 16 November and one near Awasa on 14 November (GB).

***Cercomela dubia* Sombre Rock-Chat**

Uncommon to frequent (?), no breeding record, very poorly known¹⁸.

1995: three on Mt Fantale on 19 December. 1996: three in Awash NP on 18 October. 1998: four near Awash NP on 26 March.

***Zoothera piaggiae* Abyssinian Ground-Thrush**

Uncommon (?), not well known¹⁹. Uncommon resident of forest at 2,000–3,300m in Kenya. *piaggiae* west of Rift Valley, *kilimensis* to the east, *rowei* in south²⁰.

1995: one at Dinsho on 21 December and two at Goba on 23 December. 1996: 2 at Wendo Genet on 4 January, with one there on 7 February, one above Goba on 4–5 February, two in Bale NP on 31 October, and singles at Wendo Genet on 4 November (DM) and 30 November. 1997: one between Adaba and Dinsho on 23 March, several above Goba on 24 March, one above Wendo Genet on 26 March. 1998: 2 near Dinsho on 22 March.

***Acrocephalus schoenobaenus* Sedge Warbler**

Rare to uncommon¹⁹. Palearctic migrant mid-September–late April, overwintering¹. Palearctic migrant November–early May in Kenya²¹.

1994: two at Bahar Dar on 24 January, one at Lake Chelekleka on 26 January, and four at Lake Ziway on 24 January and 5 February. 1995: one Hareenna Forest on 23 December. 1996: singles at Lake Awasa on 1–2 February, west edge of Lake Ziway on 17 October and 20 October (DM), and recorded there on 26 November (JT) with three on 23 and 30 November; recorded at Lake Chelekleka on 24 November and on east side of Lake Awasa on 29–30 November (JT). 1997: several at Lake Chelekleka on 16 March and west edge of Lake Ziway on 20 March, with four there on 11 November; several on east side of Lake Awasa on 21–23 March with 20 there on 14 November and six on 15 November. 1998: c6 at Lake Awasa on 20–21 March.

Recorded recently in varying numbers at wetlands, suggesting current status as a relatively common Palearctic migrant/winter resident in the Rift Valley.

***Acrocephalus arundinaceus* Great Reed Warbler**

Races *arundinaceus* and *zarudnyi* frequent (?) in north-east, but rare inland, distribution and abundance not well known¹⁹. Palearctic migrant mid-September–mid-May, overwintering¹. Both *arundinaceus* and *zarudnyi* also occur, November–April, in Kenya²⁰.

1996: three at Lake Ziway on 30 November. 1997: one at Lake Awasa on 15 November.

***Hippolais icterina* Icterine Warbler**

Uncommon (above 1,200m)¹⁹. Palearctic migrant early–late September and early–mid-April, not overwintering¹. Uncommon, October–April mostly in or west of Rift Valley in Kenya²⁰; uncommon August–September in Sudan¹².

1996: Recorded at four sites in October (RFC, MW). 1997: singles at Wendo Genet on 23 March and at Ziway

on 24 March.

Recorded recently in small numbers in the Rift Valley, suggesting migration periods early September–late October and late March–mid-April.

***Sylvia curruca* Lesser Whitethroat**

S. c. curruca uncommon to frequent, *blythi* common¹⁹. Palearctic migrant mid-September–mid-December and mid-January–early May, but not overwintering¹.

1988: frequent, recorded in small numbers at Debre Libanos on 6 November, Bahar Dar on 8 November, Lake Abijatta on 13 November, Lake Langano on 14 November, Awasa on 15 November, Wendo Genet on 19 November (all apparently nominate). 1995: singles in Jema Valley on 17 December and Awash on 19 December. 1996: two in Abijatta–Shala NP on 3 January, singles at Debre Zeit on 29–30 January, Langano on 31 January and Lake Awasa on 2 February and recorded at Ziway, Langano, Awasa and Awash NP in mid- to late October; singles in Abijatta NP on 21–22 October; two at Lake Awasa on 22 October, with four there on 23 October and one between Awasa and Nechisar NP on 24 October (DM); two near Filowha Springs on 22 November and five at Arsi Negele on 25 November (all apparently nominate). 1997: singles at Ziway on 18 and 27 March, and 11 November, two at Langano on 19 March, with one there on 21 March and up to six on 12–14 November, three at Awasa on 22 March, with up to four on 15–16 November, singles at Wendo Genet on 20 November, and the Awash river on 21 November. 1998: singles at Ziway on 17 March and at Awasa on 21 March.

Frequent in Rift Valley during known migration periods, some appearing to overwinter (perhaps due to increased observer coverage).

***Cisticola juncidis* Zitting Cisticola**

Race *uropygialis* is resident and breeds⁹; local in Kenya, rarely above 2,000 m²⁰.

1995: two at Awash on 19 December. 1996: singles in Awash NP on 9–10 February, 19 October (DM) and 25 November (JT), with several there 21–23 November.



Icterine Warbler *Hippolais icterina* by Mark Andrews

1998: two on Sululta Plain on 14 March and six in Awash NP on 27 March.

Apalis flavida **Yellow-breasted Apalis**

Races *viridiceps* uncommon (?) (no breeding record), *malensis* uncommon to frequent (breeding)¹⁹. Of the races occurring in Kenya, *flavocincta* (formerly *malensis*) in north²⁰.

1995: recorded widely in December (RW). 1996: two on Arero Track on 27 October and one at Wadera on 29 October (DM).

Phyllolais pulchella **Buff-bellied Warbler**

Uncommon¹⁹. Fairly common resident in south-west Kenya²⁰.

1996: singles at Debre Zeit on 30 January, Langano on 31 January and Awasa on 2 February, widespread in *Acacia* woodland and thornveld in October; five in Awash NP on 19 October, singles at Lake Ziway on 20 October and in Abijatta NP on 21 October, with two there on 22 October, two at Lake Awasa on 22 October, with four there on 23 October, one between Arba Minch and Yavello on 26 October and two at Wadera on 29 October (DM); one at Nazeret 20 and 23 November, frequent in *Acacia* near Lake Langano and at Awasa 24–26 November, four at Wendo Genet on 30 November; also at Debre Zeit, 30 November–1 December (JT). 1997: recorded in *Acacia* between Ziway and Awasa 19–22 March, locally common during November wherever *Acacia* present. 1998: recorded daily in Rift Valley 17–22 March.

At least locally common, particularly in *Acacia*-dominated areas (some degradation due to human activity appears to be taking place).

Parisoma lugens **Brown Parisoma**

Frequent, no breeding record¹⁹. Race *jacksoni* local and uncommon resident at 1,600–2,400 m in Kenya²⁰.

1988: two of the nominate race at Addis Ababa airport car park on 7 November, two *griseiventris* in Goba Forest on 17 November. 1994: two *lugens* at Wendo Genet on 5 February, six *griseiventris* in Goba Forest on 2 February. 1996: two at Wendo Genet on 3 January; singles at Wendo Genet on 4 November (DM) and Ghion Hotel, Addis Ababa on 24 November (JT), one *lugens* at Wendo Genet on 29 November and five *griseiventris* in Goba Forest on 28 November. 1997: single *lugens* at Wendo Genet on 26–27 March. 1998: pair between Goba and Shashemene on 24 March.

Endemic *griseiventris* appears to be frequent in tree heath and hypericum forest above Goba, whereas nominate (*Acacia*-haunting) *lugens* occurs in Rift Valley, suggesting a degree of speciation may have occurred (a similar situation existing elsewhere in Africa) (SCM).

Salpornis spilonorotus **Spotted Creeper**

Race *ertangeri* uncommon to locally frequent, usually above 1,500 m, not well known¹⁹. Race *salvadori* scarce and very local in north-west Kenya, and is one of the country's most endangered species²⁰.

1984: one at Debre Zeit on 10 January and two at Lake Awasa on 18 January. 1996: two at Awasa Fishing

Cooperative on 2 February, singles at Debre Zeit on 13 October, Lake Awasa on 19 October and Awasa on 20 October; three at Lake Awasa on 23 October (DM) and one near Awasa on 29 November (JT). 1997: singles in *Acacia* at the Fishing Cooperative and near Awasa on 22 March, and Wendo Genet on 19 November. 1998: singles at Awasa on 20–21 March.

Lanius minor **Lesser Grey Shrike**

Uncommon to frequent¹⁹. Passage migrant late March–mid-May, not overwintering, passage mainly in the spring¹. Common and widespread Palearctic passage migrant late March - early May in Kenya, occasional in autumn, southward migration largely to the west²⁰.

1995: one in Awash NP on 19 December. 1996: six near Awash NP on 24 October (RFC).

Recent observations indicate southward migration late October–late December.

Lanius (excubitor) meridionalis **Southern (Great) Grey Shrike**

Race *leucopygos* frequent in north-east (breeding), *aucheri* frequent in west and north-east (passage migrant?), *buryi* rare in Rift Valley (passage migrant), and *pallidirostris* uncommon to frequent (?) (passage migrant)¹⁹. Palearctic migrant mid August–mid-March, overwintering¹. One sight record of *pallidirostris* in north Kenya, in an area usually mapped as part of Sudan²⁰.

1994: two *pallidirostris* in Awash NP on 27 January, with four *pallidirostris* and two *aucheri* there on 28 January, two *pallidirostris* and two *aucheri* between Awash and Metahara on 29 January, with one *aucheri* at Lake Langano on 30 January. 1996: singles in Awash NP on 8–10 February, with 10 there on 24–26 October; one there on 18 October, two on 19 October (DM) and singles on 24–25 November (JT); one *aucheri* and eight *pallidirostris* there on 21 November, with four *pallidirostris* on 22 November, single *pallidirostris* near Modju on 23 November and Lake Abijatta on 24 November. 1997: recorded at Langano on 19 and 21 March, c10 in Awash NP on 21–22 November, of which 3 *pallidirostris* on first date (GB).

Lanius senator **Woodchat Shrike**

Race *niloticus* uncommon to frequent (?), appears to winter in lowlands, migrates through highlands¹⁹. Palearctic migrant late August–mid-May, overwintering¹. In Kenya, *niloticus* uncommon November–March²⁰.

1994: three at Bahar Dar on 24 January, 12 between Bahar Dar and Tissisat Falls on 25 January, 16 between Nazeret and Metahara on 26 January, but absent from Awash NP on 27–28 January, 35 between Modju and Lake Langano on 29 January, two at Lake Langano on 30 January and Lake Abijatta on 30 January, 21 between Shashemene and Modju on 5 February. 1995: singles in Awash NP on 19 December and Nechisar NP on 31 December. 1996: singles near Koka Dam on 15 October, and in Awash NP on 17 and 19 October (DM); three near Nazeret on 20 November, common in Awash NP (due to recent fires?), two near Goffer on 26 November and

one near Lake Ziway on 30 November. 1997: singles near Awasa on 21 March and near Lake Abijatta on 12 November; four near Awash NP on 20 November, with five in NP on 21–22 November (GB).

***Oriolus auratus* African Golden Oriole**

Frequent (west) to uncommon (central and south), rarely above 1,800 m, distribution poorly understood¹⁹. Intra-African migrant²⁰. In Kenya, *notatus* non-breeding migrant from southern tropics, mainly April–August, and *auratus* from northern tropics²⁰.

1996: singles at Lake Awasa on 23 October (DM) and 30 November (JT).

***Oriolus oriolus* Eurasian Golden Oriole**

Nominate race frequent (Eritrea) to uncommon¹⁹. Palearctic migrant early September–late October and late February–mid-May, not overwintering¹. Passage October–December and late March–April in Kenya²¹.

1988: singles in Awash NP on 11 November and Lake Langano on 13 November, with two at Awasa on 14 November. 1996: recorded on six days between 12 and 20 October mainly from Rift Valley, except one in Addis Ababa on 12 October; two at Awash NP on 22 November and one at Awasa on 26 November.

Autumn migration appears to extend to at least late November (perhaps due to increased observer coverage).

***Corvus (ruficollis) edithae* Dwarf Raven**

Frequent (apparently hybridises with *C. albus* in south-east Highlands), but rare in west Highlands¹⁹. May form separate species within *C. corax* species-group⁷. *C. (ruficollis) edithae* locally common throughout north Kenya, possibly not conspecific with extralimital *C. ruficollis*²⁰; uncommon in south-east Sudan¹².

1996: one at Ziway on 23 November, with four there on 30 November, four on Arero Track on 27 October, 20 between Mega and Negele on 28 October, 10 at Sidamo Junction on 29 October, two in Bale NP on 31 October, four between Goba and Wendo Genet on 3 November (DM). 1997: recorded in Bale Mts 23–25 March. 1998: relatively common around Goba, with 12 on 22 March.

***Onychognathus blythii* Somali Starling**

Frequent to common, associated with rocky areas, occurs south Highlands (?)¹⁹. Mapped as ? in central Ethiopia¹³.

1996: four above Goba on 21 October. 1997: five above tree line near road above Goba on 24 March. 1998: one between Shashemene and Goba on 22 March, 12 in Bale Mts on 23 March, with two there on 24 March.

Recent observations confirm presence in Bale Mts, extending likely period there to at least mid-March–late June.

***Onychognathus salvadorii* Bristle-crowned Starling**

Uncommon (?), rarely above 1,200 m¹⁹. Locally common below 1,300 m in central and north Kenya, north to the Sudanese and Ethiopian borders²⁰.

1994: one in Awash NP on 27 January. 1995: five at Bokol Mayo on 25 December. 1996: two in Awash NP on 19 October (DM).

***Cosmopsarus regius* Golden-breasted Starling**

Uncommon to frequent resident, with breeding records⁹. Fairly common and widespread resident, mainly east of Rift Valley in Kenya²⁰.

1995: recorded between Mega and Negele, at Bokol Mayo, between Negele and Melka Ghuba and between Yavello and Konso in late December. 1996: six between Arba Minch and Yavello on 26 October and 20 between Mega and Negele on 8 October (DM).

***Ploceus taeniopterus* Northern Masked Weaver**

Uncommon, no breeding record, not well known¹⁹. Apparently restricted to near Lakes Baringo and Bogoria in central Kenya²⁰.

1996: two at Awash NP on 25 October (RFC).

***Mandingoa nitidula* Green-backed Twinspot**

Race *chubbi* is uncommon and poorly known¹⁹, and an uncommon and local resident in Kenya²⁰; common in south Sudan¹².

1995: female at Wendo Genet on 30 May (ED). 1997: pair at Wendo Genet on 19 November.

***Lagonosticta rubricata* African Firefinch**

Race *bildebranti* frequent (?), although rare in highland and grassland above 1,800 m, no breeding record¹⁹, and uncommon but widespread resident in west and central Kenyan highlands²⁰.

1995: two in Jema valley on 17 December and one north of Arba Minch on 31 December (RW). 1996: two at Wendo Genet on 4 November (DM) and pair near Lake Chelekleka on 24 November (JT).

***Vidua chalybeata* Village Indigobird**

Race *ultramarina* frequent to uncommon, breeding possible¹⁹. In Kenya, race *centralis* rather uncommon, *amauropteryx* is coastal²⁰.

1995: two in Jema valley on 18 December and at Melka Ghebdu on 18 December, with one at Awash on 19 December. 1996: singles in Awash NP on 9–10 February and six near Debre Zeit on 13 October; two at Melka Ghebdu on 16 October, with singles in Abijatta NP on 21 October and between Awasa and Nechisar NP on 24 October (DM). 1997: male and several presumed females at Debre Zeit on 16 and 29 March; seen on 10 days during November throughout the Rift Valley. 1998: four at Lake Chelekleka on 15 March.

***Estrilda paludicola* Fawn-breasted Waxbill**

Race *ochrogaster* locally abundant (west) to uncommon, no breeding record (along streams at 1,200–2,100 m)¹⁹ and *paludicola* local and generally uncommon in west Kenya²⁰.

1996: two at Awasa on 4 January, with pair there on 1 February (SB).

***Estrilda chamosyna* Black-cheeked Waxbill**

Uncommon, no breeding record, not well known¹⁹. Local in Kenya²⁰; rare in south Sudan¹².

1995: one north of Awash on 18 December, two between Filto and Bokal Mayo on 23 December and one

at Lake Stefanie on 31 December. 1996: two at Lake Langano on 17 October with one there next day; two between Arba Minch and Yavello on 26 October (DM); also recorded in Awash NP on 25 November (JT).

Serinus xantholaemus **Salvadori's Serin**

Endemic; near-threatened⁶. Although rare, probably sufficiently widespread to be at no risk³.

1995: two at Sof Omar on 22 December. 1996: four at Sof Omar on 1 November (DM).

Serinus flavigula **Yellow-throated Seedeater**

Endemic, uncommon (?), poorly known, no breeding record¹⁹. Status indeterminate⁶.

1996: at least one pair feeding recently fledged juveniles at Melka Ghebdu on 6 January; two in Awash NP on 18 October (DM).

Serinus donaldsoni **Northern Grosbeak-canary**

Nominate race uncommon to frequent, breeding possible, not well known¹⁹. Scarce and local below 1,600 m in north Kenya: sometimes considered conspecific with *S. buchamanii*²⁰.

1995: three at Fejeje on 30 December. 1996: one in Awash NP on 22 November (J Wijkema *per* SCM).

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